

Combat HIV/AIDS Malaria and other Diseases

March, 2009

**A Prayer for Healing:****All: Heal me, Lord, and I will be Healed.**

Whatever villages or towns or countryside he entered, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel of his cloak; and as many as touched it were healed. (MK 6: 56) **Response: Heal me....**

And then a leper approached, did him homage, and said, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean." he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, "I will do it. Be made clean." (MT 8:2-3)

Response: Heal me....

Jesus entered the house of Peter, and saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand, the fever left her, and she rose and waited on him. (MT 8:14-15) **Response: Heal me....**

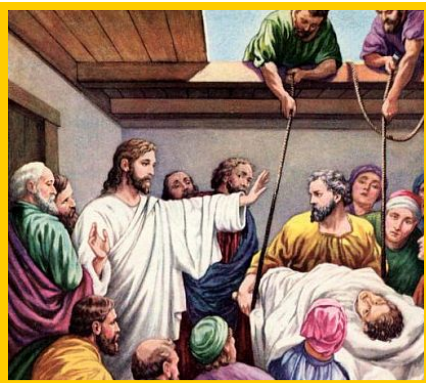
"Lord, let our eyes be opened." Moved with pity, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight, and followed him. (MT 20:33-34) **Response: Heal me....**

Great crowds came to him, having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute and many others. They placed them at his feet, and he cured them. (MT 15:30) **Response: Heal me....**

"'When did we see you ill or in prison and visit you?'... 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least of mine, you did for me.'" (MT 25:29-40) **Response: Heal me....**

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark (2:1-5,11-12)**Guided Reflection****Prayers of Petition****Response: Healing God, hear our prayer.****Closing Prayer**

Let us pray for an end to pandemic disease throughout the world, particularly the scourges of HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis; that plagues of death may no longer fuel poverty, destabilize nations, and inhibit reconciliation and restoration throughout the world.



O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of all who suffer: Grant your saving health to all who are afflicted by disease throughout the world. Bless the labors of all who minister to the sick, and unite the wills of nations and peoples in seeking an end to the pandemics of our age; that sickness may be turned to health, sorrow turned to joy, and mourning turned to praise of your Holy Name. Amen.

Notes for using this prayer:

Please feel free to make adaptations to this prayer to meet the needs of your learning community. You may decide to add music before, during or after the pieces that are outlined here.

Materials needed:

- ✓ A copy of the 1st page of this document for each participant A leader of the prayer and additional readers if you decide to use them for the various parts.
- ✓ Participants will need writing instruments
- ✓ A copy of the content below for the leader and/or readers.

A Prayer for Healing:

The LEADER begins:

Today, as we gather to pray for healing for those suffering from malaria, HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and other pandemic diseases, we are reminded of our own need for healing and God's power to heal. Together let us pray...

The Leader begins the response: **Heal me, Lord, and I will be Healed.** Then the Leader (or different participants) reads each of the scripture quotes, and the Leader leads the response after each quote.

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark (2:1-5, 11-12) (read by the Leader or another)

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark.

When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child.... stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

Guided Reflection: (The LEADER reads the following, pausing periodically to allow time for reflection.)

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine the scene of this Gospel story. Jesus is inside a house. It is a small house...probably only a room. It is surrounded by a crowd of people.

Now imagine that you have a friend who cannot walk. Your friend cannot hold a job and has to depend on others for shelter, food and care. More than that: your friend cannot run and jump. Your friend cannot dance. Your friend cannot climb a mountain or go for a walk in the woods.

You have heard stories of people Jesus has healed. You believe Jesus can free your friend from the paralysis that holds them down. You decide to take your friend to Jesus.

There is no wheel chair. How do you get your friend to the house?

The crowd is so thick...and all the people in front of you are as determined as you are to reach Jesus. You see the roof. Maybe if you could get your friend onto the roof...you could get your friend to Jesus.

How do you get your friend onto the roof? What is the roof made of? What do you have to do to make a hole in the roof big enough to lower your friend through? How do you lower your friend to Jesus? Be careful! You don't want to injure your friend.

What are the feelings in you as you try to get your friend to Jesus?

How do you feel when your friend stands up and walks?

How does your friend respond to being healed?

Reflect for a moment: this miracle of healing came about because of your faith, your willingness to help, your effort and creativity. You partnered with God to make the impossible possible.

How often does God need us to be the caring hands, creative imaginations, determined minds that help to bring about healing in our world?

This month we pray for efforts to reach the sixth Millennium Development Goal that is aimed at curing and preventing communicable diseases.

More than 15,000 people die each day because of AIDS, tuberculosis, or malaria—all preventable diseases. Eight thousand die each day from AIDS alone. In the developing world, 55% of deaths are attributed to preventable communicable diseases.

In Sub-Saharan Africa alone, more than 30 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS, but only 50,000 have access to life saving medication. More than 40% of the world's population is at risk for contracting malaria, resulting in the death of more than 1 million people each year. Malaria can easily be treated with drugs, or prevented with the use of treated bed nets.

Education and access to treatment are the tools which can be used to achieve this goal of halting and reversing the spread of these devastating diseases. With our support in advocacy and financial contributions to global health initiatives, we can help make this goal a reality. We can partner with God to bring about the miracle of healing.

Intercessions and Closing Prayer

The LEADER begins: "Let us pray: **Healing God, hear our prayer.**"

(The LEADER reads each petition and leads the response after it.)

For all those suffering from preventable diseases, we pray for healing.

For their families and caregivers, we pray for comfort and strength.

For educators who work to prevent disease, we pray for wisdom and courage.

For those who use their gifts to find cures, we pray for insight and creativity.

For each of us, that we may see how we can use our gifts to heal the sick, we pray...

Let us pray together (the Leader leads the closing prayer)."